

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1279

Introduced by Assembly Member Scott

February 26, 1999

An act relating to postsecondary education, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1279, as introduced, Scott. Postsecondary education: study of doctoral education.

Existing law establishes the various segments of the higher education system in the state. These segments include the University of California, which is administered by the Regents of the University of California, the California State University, which is administered by the Trustees of the California State University, the California Community Colleges, which are administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, and various private and independent colleges and universities. Existing law establishes the California Postsecondary Education Commission as an entity responsible for coordinating public, independent, and private postsecondary education in California and providing independent policy analysis and recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor on postsecondary education issues.

This bill would require the California Postsecondary Education Commission to conduct a study to determine the current capacity for applied doctorates in the state, as

specified. The bill would require the commission to complete and transmit copies of the study to the chairpersons of specified legislative committees on or before January 1, 2000.

The bill would appropriate an unspecified amount from the General Fund to the commission for the purposes of the study.

The bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: ²/₃. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of
2 the following:

3 (a) The increasing complexity of the tasks of the
4 California work force and the need for increased
5 intellectual competencies in workers creates a context
6 where postbaccalaureate learning and economic
7 prosperity are inextricably connected.

8 (b) Applied doctorate programs bridge the duality
9 between abstract, theoretical, and intellectual work and
10 the practical requirements of everyday work and
11 employment. These programs construct important
12 connections among communities, employers, and
13 academia.

14 (c) Where the demand for doctoral education is
15 significant and opportunities for collaboration within
16 California are limited, it may be possible for California
17 public colleges and universities to develop more applied
18 joint doctoral programs to meet the increasing needs of
19 the state's work force.

20 (d) These potential collaborations between in-state
21 and out-of-state institutions may capitalize on
22 complementary resources, unusual specializations, and
23 existing scholarly ties.

24 (e) The opportunity to leverage expertise may
25 present an excellent opportunity to enhance the
26 education and professional qualifications of California's
27 students and, ultimately, its work force.



1 SEC. 2. (a) The California Postsecondary Education
2 Commission shall conduct a study to determine the
3 current capacity for applied doctorates in the state. The
4 study shall specifically focus on whether the state is
5 meeting its needs for applied doctorates with its current
6 applied doctoral programs.

7 (b) While developing the study pursuant to this
8 section, the commission shall consult with all segments of
9 higher education and with individuals representing
10 employers, such as local school districts, with the intent
11 to qualify and quantify the value and merit of applied
12 doctoral programs to present and future work force
13 needs.

14 (c) Notwithstanding Section 7550.5 of the
15 Government Code, on or before January 1, 2000, the
16 commission shall complete the study conducted pursuant
17 to this section and transmit copies of the study to the
18 chairperson of the Assembly Committee on Higher
19 Education and the chairperson of the Senate Select
20 Committee on Higher Education.

21 SEC. 3. The sum of ____ dollars (\$____) is
22 hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the
23 California Postsecondary Education Commission for
24 expenditure for the purposes of the study conducted
25 pursuant to Section 2 of this act.

26 SEC. 4. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the
27 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or
28 safety within the meaning of Article IV of the
29 Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts
30 constituting the necessity are:

31 In order for the important study required by Section 2
32 of this act to be conducted in a timely manner, it is
33 necessary that this act take effect immediately.